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## **Adoption**

A Gospel Story  
by Carolynn Yancey

It was Wednesday, June 14, 1989; I was 12 years old and my new mom, dad, siblings, aunts, uncles, and grandparents all gathered at the court house to celebrate finalizing my adoption. I had been rejected by my biological family, in and out of foster care, and had been in custody of the court for years, but I was about to have a new forever family.

The one thing I really remember about that day was that I walked out with a new birth certificate in my hands. In a moment, my name changed, the name of my parents

changed and I was granted a new identity. It was like everything I had been through, my entire past, was wiped clean and I was given a fresh start in life. At the time, I didn't really understand what a sacrifice my mom and dad were making in adopting me. I was a troubled child and they had a lot of work on their hands to integrate me into their new family. Even with all my troubles, my new parents chose me, they picked me, and they paid a high price to include me in the ranks of my siblings. In doing so they committed to love me, discipline me, and accept me just like I was one of their own.

God has given us the same gift. Despite our background, the rejection in our lives, the trouble, the pain, and the cost, He chose us to be his children. In doing so He proves how much He loves us; He disciplines us and He accepts us just like we are one of his very own children.

*“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”* 1 John 3:1

The great thing about being chosen was the knowledge that my parents wouldn't ever change their mind about me. That I was accepted into the family and was there to stay. Finally, I had a safe place to land, and a promise that I would be loved forever. I had a new name, a new identity.

We have that same promise in God:

*“And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So, you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”* Galatians 4: 6-7

We are no longer slaves to our past but are heirs to the throne of God. Wow, what an amazing promise!

### **Questions:**

Do you live like you have a new birth certificate?

What would it look like if you did?

Are you thankful for all the gifts that come from adoption? The price that was paid for you? The discipline of a loving father?

Do you really know and believe that God chose you and that He loves you as one of his own?

**Extra Credit:** Draw your new birth certificate on paper, List your new name, your new fathers name. Include the promise above from 1<sup>st</sup> John and hang it up. When you see it, remember that through your adoption you have a new name, and a new identity, free from your past.

**Prayer:**

*Thank you, God, that you love us enough to pay the price to adopt us into your family, that in becoming one of your children we are heirs of the mighty King and are the recipients of all the blessings that come with being your child. Remind us today who we belong to, who our father is, and that we have a new identity in you.*

**The Book of Confession Chapter XII 6.074**

1. All those that are justified, God vouchsafeth, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption: by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God; have his name put upon them; receive the Spirit of adoption; have access to the throne of grace with boldness; are enabled to cry, Abba, Father; are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by him as by a father; yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption, and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.